

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. Canceled.

6. (Currently Amended) A device for producing an extruded plastic pipe, comprising:
- an adjustable pipe head configured to extrude a melt column, ~~the melt column~~ having a thickness and an outer surface defining an outside diameter of the melt column, the adjustable pipe head being adjustable to vary the thickness and outside diameter of the melt column;
 - a vacuum chamber positioned in the device adjacent to the adjustable pipe head ~~including the vacuum chamber and~~ providing a vacuum condition, the vacuum chamber comprising ~~[[:]]~~ measuring tools configured to ~~determine~~ measure the outside diameter of the melt column, the vacuum condition being automatically varied to alter the outside diameter of the melt column based on a predetermined diameter and measurements from the measuring tools;
 - a calibrating station positioned in the device adjacent to the vacuum chamber and being automatically controlled to calibrate the outer diameter of the melt column to the predetermined diameter;
 - a vacuum calibrating bath positioned in the device adjacent to the calibrating station, the vacuum calibrating bath being configured to bath the calibrated melt column and being automatically adjustable based on the predetermined diameter;
 - an adjustable vacuum seal configured to engage the outer surface of the melt column to maintain the vacuum condition in the vacuum calibrating bath, and the vacuum seal being automatically adjustable based on the predetermined diameter;
 - ~~whereby when the extruded melt column is moved from the adjustable pipe head into the vacuum chamber, the outer surface of the melt column is exposed to the vacuum condition in the vacuum chamber, and a change in the vacuum condition changes the thickness and the outside diameter of the melt column in a controlled manner based on the measured outside diameter of the melt column determined by the measuring tools.~~

wherein the vacuum chamber in conjunction with the adjustable pipe head control the melt column thickness.

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the measuring instruments operate with sensing tools resting on the outer surface of the melt column.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the measuring instruments determine the outside diameter of the melt column without physically touching the melt column.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 8, wherein the measuring instruments determine the outside diameter using sound or light sensors.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A device for producing an extruded plastic pipe, comprising:
an adjustable pipe head ~~including~~ configured to extrude a melt column having a thickness and an outer surface defining an outer diameter and being adjustable to vary the outer diameter of the melt column;

a vacuum chamber providing a variable vacuum condition and including measuring tools configured to ~~determine~~ measure the outer diameter of the melt column and ~~provide a measurement signal,~~ the vacuum condition being varied based on a predetermined outer diameter setting and the measured outer diameter of the melt column;

a calibrating station configured to fit the outer surface of the melt column to calibrate the outer diameter of the melt column to ~~a predetermined diameter;~~

a vacuum calibrating bath configured to fit the outer surface of the melt column and to bath the calibrated melt column to cool and harden the calibrated melt column; and

an adjustable vacuum seal configured to ~~engage~~ fit the outer surface of the melt column ~~and being adjustable in size to maintain the vacuum condition in the vacuum calibrating station;~~

whereby the calibrating station, the vacuum calibrating bath, and the adjustable vacuum seal are automatically controlled based on the predetermined outer diameter setting of the melt column.

~~whereby an adjustment of the adjustable pipe head, the vacuum condition, the predetermined diameter, and the size of the vacuum seal are each automatically controlled in response to the measurement signal.~~

15. (New) The device of claim 6, wherein the vacuum calibrating bath includes support rollers configured to support the melt column, the support rollers being automatically adjustable based on the predetermined diameter.

16. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the vacuum calibrating bath includes support rollers configured to fit the outer diameter of the melt column.

17. (New) The device of claim 14, wherein the vacuum chamber in conjunction with the adjustable pipe head controls the melt column thickness.